

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended). An adjustable extension for driving tools comprising an outer member, the outer member having a proximal end and a distal end, the adjustable extension having a longitudinally extending connector, the longitudinally extending connector having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer member having a receiver at the proximal end thereof for receiving a driving tool, the outer member having a longitudinally extending central cavity, the central cavity having a tool driving element, the adjustable extension further having the proximal end of the longitudinally extending connector adjustably received within the longitudinally extending central cavity of the outer member for relative telescoping movement thereto, the proximal end of the longitudinally extending connector having a driven element cooperating with the tool driving element of the outer member, the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector extending out of the longitudinally extending central cavity and beyond the distal end of the outer member, the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector having a member for driving a tool, the longitudinally extending connector having an intermediate portion between its proximal and distal ends, the intermediate portion of the longitudinally extending connector including a rack with teeth, the intermediate portion of the longitudinally extending connector being spaced from the central cavity of the outer member in a non-binding relationship, the outer member having a ~~spring biased pawl~~ notch opening to a window in which is received a pawl with a handle extension substantially flush with the outer member, said pawl and handle extension mounted on a spring biased axle

in the window, and a spring between said handle extension and the notch to bias said pawl for engagement with one or more of the teeth of the rack whereby the adjustable extension may be used in a selected variety of extended lengths to connect the proximal end of the outer member to a driving tool and transmit driving force to a tool connected to the tool driving member at the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 2 (original). The device of claim 1 wherein the adjustable extension has a stop to limit the relative telescoping movement of the outer member and the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 3 (original). The device of claim 1 wherein the outer member has a stop in the longitudinally extending central cavity adjacent to the proximal end of the outer member to limit the relative telescoping movement of the outer member and the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 4 (original). The device of claim 1 wherein the outer member has a stop at the distal end of the outer member to limit the relative telescoping movement of the outer member and the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 5 (original). The device of claim 4 wherein the stop includes a guide member at the distal end of the outer member.

Claim 6 (original). The device of claim 1 wherein the longitudinally extending connector has a stop adjacent to the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector to limit the relative telescoping movement of the outer member and the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 7 (original). The device of claim 6 wherein the stop includes an enlarged portion adjacent to the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 8 (original). The device of claim 1 wherein the tool driving element of the central cavity has a square drive configuration.

Claim 9 (original). The device of claim 1 wherein the driven element of the longitudinally extending connector has a square drive configuration.

Claim 10 (original). The adjustable extension of claim 1 wherein the adjustable extension includes a spring biased detent to form a firm removable connection between the outer member and the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 11 (currently amended). An adjustable extension for driving tools comprising an outer tubular member, the outer tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end, the adjustable extension having a longitudinally extending connector, the longitudinally extending connector having a proximal end and a distal end, the

outer tubular member having a receiver at the proximal end thereof for receiving a driving tool, the tubular member having a longitudinally extending central cavity, the central cavity having a non-circular cross-section, the adjustable extension further having the longitudinally extending connector adjustably received within the longitudinally extending central cavity of the tubular member for relative telescoping movement thereto, the longitudinally extending connector having its proximal end received within the central cavity of the tubular member, the proximal end of the longitudinally extending connector having a non-circular cross-sectional shape cooperating with the central cavity of the tubular member, the longitudinally extending connector having its distal end extending out of the longitudinally extending central cavity and beyond the distal end of the tubular member, the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector having a tool driving member, the longitudinally extending connector having an intermediate portion between its proximal and distal ends, the intermediate portion of the longitudinally extending connector being substantially circular in cross-section and being of a smaller transverse dimension than the proximal end of the longitudinally extending connector, the intermediate portion of the longitudinally extending connector being spaced from the central cavity of the outer tubular member in a non-binding relationship and including a rack with a plurality of teeth, the distal end of at least one of the tubular member and the longitudinally extending connector having a stop to limit the relative telescoping movement of the adjustable extension, the tubular member having a ~~spring-biased pawl~~ notch opening to a window in which is received a pawl with a handle extension substantially flush

with the tubular member, said pawl and handle extension mounted on a spring biased axle in the window, and a spring between said handle extension and the notch to bias said pawl for engagement with one or more of the teeth of the rack adjacent the distal end of the tubular member, whereby the adjustable extension may be used in a selected variety of extended lengths to connect the proximal end of the tubular member to a driving tool and transmit driving force to a tool connected to the tool driving member at the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 12 (original). The adjustable extension of claim 11 wherein the stop includes a flange adjacent to the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 13 (currently amended). The adjustable extension of claim 11 wherein the stop includes a guide member adjacent to the distal end of the outer tubular member, the guide member ~~extending to a location adjacent to~~ collaring the intermediate portion of the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 14 (currently amended). The adjustable extension of claim 11 wherein the adjustable extension includes a plurality of ~~spring biased detents~~ selectively engageable connections to form a plurality of firm selectively removable connections between the outer tubular member and the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 15 (original). The adjustable extension of claim 11 wherein the central cavity of the outer tubular member has a square drive configuration and wherein the proximal end of the longitudinally extending connector has a cooperating square configuration.

Claim 16 (currently amended). An adjustable extension for driving tools comprising an outer member, the outer member having a proximal end and a distal end, the adjustable extension having a longitudinally extending connector, the longitudinally extending connector having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer member having means for connecting to a driving tool at the proximal end thereof, the outer member having means for receiving the longitudinally extending connector for relative telescoping movement thereto, the longitudinally extending connector having a means for cooperating with the outer member to drive the longitudinally extending connector, the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector having means for driving a tool, the longitudinally extending connector having an intermediate portion of smaller dimension between its proximal and distal ends ~~and having means for~~ spacing the intermediate portion of the longitudinally extending connector from the outer member in a non-binding relationship, at least one of the outer member and the longitudinally extending connector having means for limiting the relative telescoping movement of the adjustable extension, said means for limiting relative telescoping movement comprising a rack with a plurality of teeth extending between the proximal end and the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector, said outer member

having a notch opening to a window in which is received a pawl with a handle extension substantially flush with the outer member, said pawl and handle extension mounted on a spring biased axle in the window, and a spring between said handle extension and the notch for selective engagement of the pawl with one or more of the teeth of the rack, whereby the adjustable extension may be used in a selected variety of extended lengths to connect the proximal end of the outer member to a driving tool and transmit driving force to a tool connected to the driving means at the distal end of the longitudinally extending connector.

Claim 17 (original). The adjustable extension of claim 16 wherein the cooperating drive means is a square drive.

Claim 18 (original). The adjustable extension of claim 16 wherein the means for limiting the relative telescoping movement of the adjustable extension includes a stop at an end of the outer member.

Claim 19 (original). The adjustable extension of claim 16 wherein the means for limiting the relative telescoping movement of the adjustable extension includes a guide at the distal end of the outer member.

Claim 20 (original). The adjustable extension of claim 16 wherein the means for limiting the relative telescoping movement of the adjustable extension

includes a shoulder on the longitudinally extending connector adjacent to the distal end thereof.